HD **United States - Institutions and Energy Policy - CO2 - Introduction**

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LP

In 2021, the US administration pledged to reduce the country's GHG emissions by 50-52% below 2005 levels by 2030, including LULUCF and agriculture. The US unveiled a new NDC in December 2024 targeting an emissions reduction of 61-66% by 2035, which would bring emissions down to between 2.24 GtCO2eq and 2.57 GtCO2eq (between 3.16 GtCO2eq and 3.29 GtCO2eq in 2030) (6.59 GtCO2eq in 2005). This commitment is, however, questioned by the new Trump administration, which signed an executive order in January 2025 withdrawing the US from the Paris Climate Agreement. The US first ratified this agreement in 2016 and a second time in 2021 after a first withdrawal in 2020; the country represents around 18% of global GHG emissions.

The EPA forecasted in 2023 that, in light of the implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the USA is on course to be 35% to 43% below 2005 levels in 2030. Emissions reductions from the power sector would be 49% to 83% below 2005 levels in 2030.

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Total net GHG emissions, including LULUCF, decreased by 2.7% in 2023 to 5.5 GtCO2e, after a 1.3% increase in 2022 and a 6% rebound in 2021, following the significant drop due to Covid in 2020 (-11%); in 2023, they stood 16% below their 2005 levels. CO2 represented 81% of total gross GHG emissions in 2023. The LULUCF sector offset 4% of total GHG emissions in 2023.

The goal to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector by 40-45% by 2025 compared to 2012 levels, set in 2015, was suspended in 2018, as it was considered to threaten the economic viability of marginal wells.

The EPA has proposed new CO2 pollution standards for coal- and gas-fired power plants. The new rules will require gas-fired power plants, excepting those that only run part-time, to capture 90% of their emissions by 2035. Alternatively, they could gradually incorporate low-carbon hydrogen co-firing starting in 2032, increasing it to a 96% hydrogen blend by 2038. Existing coal plants that would remain in operation in 2040 would have to capture 90% of their emissions by 2030. These new rules are forecast to 617 MtCO2 through 2042. These new rules may be insufficient to deliver the current administration's goal of 100% clean energy by 2035.

CO2 emissions from fuel combustion decreased slightly in 2024 (-0.5%) to 4.4 GtCO2. These emissions have decreased by 23% since 2005 and by 14% since 2010.

Graph: CO2-ENERGY EMISSIONS (MtCO2)

Click to view.

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